(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export policy on Agricultural products

2348. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policies regarding export of agricultural products; and

(b) whether Government propose to take measures to increase the export of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of Indna's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions and made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

(b) Some of the measures proposed to be taken to enhance exports of agricultural products include :—

Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planning material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables and improving productivity.

2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.

3. Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Co-operative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/ cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses).

4. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control.

5. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially the mangoes in overseas markets.

6. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

7. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

8. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

9. Providing assitance in development of data-base and dissemination of market information.

Coffee Plantation in Assam

2349. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for cultivation of coffee plantation in the fertile land available in different parts of the State of Assam for the benefits of unemployed youth;

(b) if so, the district-wise/location-wise details including the full area of Assam for the said purpose;